

## DOD INJURY AND UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION UPDATE

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### ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE (EDI)

Electronic Data Interchange, or EDI, is a system that allows you to file CA-1's and CA-2's electronically.

The EDI Tracking System allows DoD employees and supervisors to complete the initiating claim forms on the Internet, electronically submit the claim form to the servicing Injury Compensation Program Administrator for authentication, and transmit the information to OWCP National Headquarters for processing by each OWCP District Office.

What are the advantages of EDI? Once the supervisor completes the claim, the claim will be immediately available for the ICPA to review. No more waiting for paper form to show up in your office. Then, OWCP will assign a claim number within 48 hours of receipt. This will allow prompt medical authorizations and bill payment. In addition, the electronic form virtually eliminates data entry errors. No more wrong addresses or forgotten chargeback codes. EDI will also help DoD agencies to meet requirements for timely filing of claims.

Your DoD liaison can provide more information and application forms for EDI, or you can visit our website at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/icuc/icuc.htm>

### SUMMARY OF RECENT CHANGES AT THE OFFICE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAMS (OWCP)

1. Effective 1-3-03, the mileage rate for reimbursement of travel expenses is now 36¢/mile, down from the previous 36.5¢/mile.
2. The Philadelphia District Office will now create new cases from injured Federal employees residing in Northern and Eastern Maryland. If you are submitting a new claim (CA-1, CA-2, CA-5 or CA-6 only) for an employee, and their home has a ZIP code beginning with "21", this claim form should be submitted to the Philadelphia District Office. If the Special Claims section processes claims for your employees, this change does not apply. Existing claims from employees in Maryland will continue to be serviced by the Washington, D.C. District Office.
3. The New York District Office has changed telephone numbers, including the area code. Their new general number is (646) 264-3000. The phone number for the DoD liaison in the New York District Office has not changed; that number is (212) 337-2277.

### March, 2003 FECA CPI

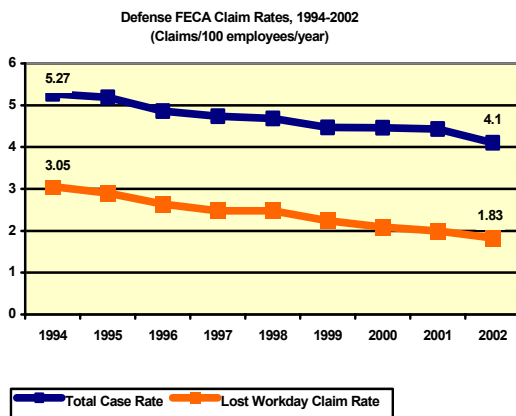
The increase in the Consumer Price Index for 2002 was 2.4%. The increase is effective March 1, 2003, where disability or death occurred before March 1, 2002. Eligible FECA recipients who receive periodic checks from OWCP should expect to see this increase in the checks covering the period March 23 to April 19, 2003.

### SARS Virus Cases

Since the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus earlier this year, questions regarding the handling of potential FECA claims resulting from exposure to this virus have been raised. The Division of Federal Employees' Compensation has decided that any claim involving an allegation of exposure to the SARS virus will be handled in their National Office. These claims should be mailed to: U.S. Department of Labor; OWCP; 200 Constitution Ave, N.W., Room S-3229; Washington, DC 20210.

## FECA Trends

The Department of Defense continues to make progress in reducing the number of civilian workplace injuries and illnesses, and in controlling workers compensation costs. In FY 2002, DoD employees filed 27,503 FECA claims, which is 7.6% below the FY 2001 total. Of these claims, 12,248 involved lost time, which represents a decline of almost 9 percent compared to FY 2001. This marks the ninth consecutive drop in the annual number of FECA claims within DoD. Although the number of DoD civilian employees has also declined every year since 1994, the reductions in civilian strength have been accompanied by an even greater decrease in the number of FECA claims. The result is that FECA case rates per 100 DoD employees have also fallen every year since 1994.



## Injury Compensation Training

The Department of Defense will host two Annual Injury and Unemployment Compensation Conferences in Southbridge, Massachusetts. The conferences will be held April 28 to May 2, 2003, and June 23-27, 2003, at the Southbridge Convention Center. CPMS is also scheduling two additional Beginners Courses for June 2-6, 2003 and September 8-12, 2003. Conference attendees are expected to make their own hotel reservations.

Overnight accommodations for 150 attendees have been reserved for each of the two Conferences. The registration fee is \$400.00, and includes a working luncheon with a guest speaker on Wednesday. Individuals wishing to attend the Conference should complete the registration form in the ICUC Web site (listed above) and fax it to the Injury and Unemployment Compensation Division at (703) 696-5438 or DSN: 426-5438. Once the registration form is received with IMPAC card information, a confirmation letter will be sent to you. The per diem rate (not to include lodging) for Southbridge is currently \$34.00. There is no cost for lodging.

## ICUC Power Cubes

CPMS-ICUC is proud to introduce the ICUC Power Cubes and ICUC Web Portal for Beta testing to a select user group. The ICUC Power Cubes have been designed and developed using Cognos® Power Play and Upfront applications. ICUC Power Cubes are web-based reporting tools designed to support injury and unemployment compensation, safety and occupational health administration gather statistical data necessary to identify areas to improve within each program, and develop program initiatives to manage programs more effectively at all organizational levels.

Component	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999 - 2003
<b>Total Costs</b>	\$62,386,237.00	\$64,382,800.00	\$64,684,956.00	\$63,796,590.00	\$15,474,766.00	\$270,724,349.00
<b>ATH/ESTATE</b>	\$163,864,495.00	\$167,169,101.00	\$169,271,368.00	\$174,899,129.00	\$43,201,261.00	\$718,205,344.00
<b>AIR FORCE</b>	\$123,908,412.00	\$129,367,961.00	\$134,129,009.00	\$132,563,751.00	\$32,405,112.00	\$551,534,245.00
<b>NAVY</b>	\$240,491,953.00	\$241,585,001.00	\$246,881,495.00	\$248,250,395.00	\$69,740,513.00	\$1,035,949,347.00
<b>Codes</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>All Components</b>	\$590,531,897.00	\$601,504,863.00	\$614,566,800.00	\$619,508,065.00	\$149,981,652.00	\$2,576,413,285.00

Screen View of the Chargeback Statistics Power Cube

The ICUC Web Portal creates an information base for all users with references and links useful to injury compensation, unemployment compensation, safety, occupational health, ergonomics and supervisors. The ICUC Web Portal promotes information sharing between programs that are closely related, thereby improving communication efforts.

Category	Item	Author	Proximal
Administration	Administration	Author	Proximal
	Broadcast Messages	Author	Proximal
	CPMS Directive 1400.25	Author	Proximal
	Ergonomics Resource	Author	Proximal
Injury Compensation	Injury Compensation	Author	Proximal
	Look inside for information about the DOD Injury Compensation Program	Author	Proximal
Personal NewsBoxes	Personal NewsBoxes	Author	Proximal
	Hidden entry	Author	Proximal
Statistical Data Reports	Statistical Data Reports	Author	Proximal
	Statistical Data Reports (DOD Compliance)	Author	Proximal

Screen View of the ICUC Web Portal